Equal Rights

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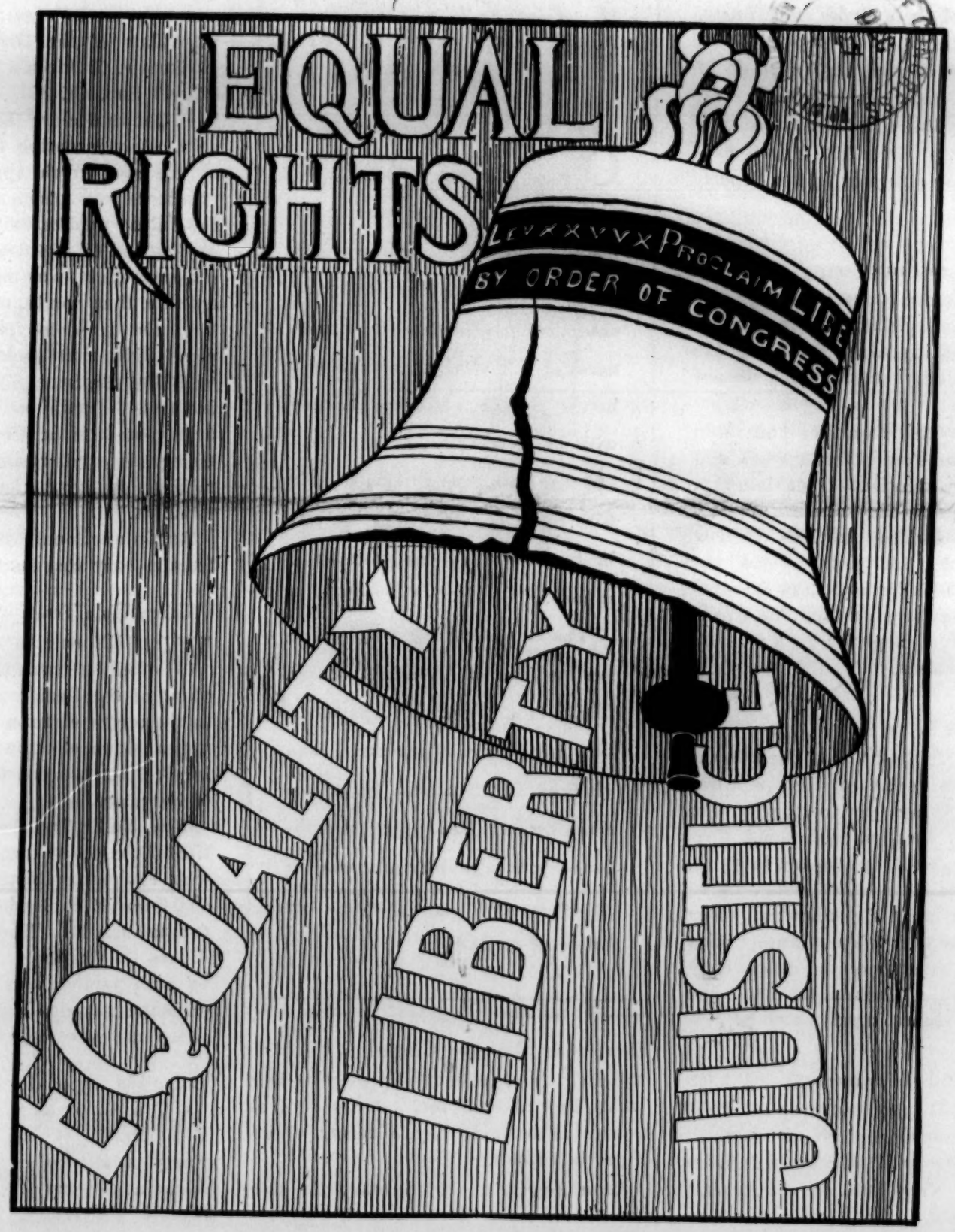

Feminist Notes

Scientific Men Recognize Ability

THE University of London is apparently less in the grip of obsolete ideas than some American universities. Its ability to recognize ability, regardless of sex, is shown in the appointment of Dr. Mary Lucas Keene of the London Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine to the post of professor of anatomy.

Dr. Keene is an old student of the school, where she has been demonstrator in anatomy and lecturer in embryology. In 1919 she succeeded Professor Wood-Jones as reader in anatomy and head of the anatomical department of the school. This readership has now been raised to a full professorship. Over 100 women medical students are studying in her department.

Persia Advocates Protection

TO discriminate between young children in labor legislation on the ground of sex is something of an innovation to the western mind. Yet Persians do not think so.

Special protective measures have been promulgated in Persia for women and children employed in the carpet industry. An eight-hour day has been fixed. The minimum age for boy workers is now eight years, and for girl workers ten years. Workshops for boys must be separate from those for girls, and the supervision of the workshops for girls must be entrusted to women.

Woman Typist Wins

MISS ODETTE PIAU of Paris is the champion typist of Europe. She won her title in an open competition in which French, Belgian, Swiss and English champion stenographers met in Paris. She struck the keys 10,943 times in 30 minutes, with only 21 mistakes. Her word rate was over 90 a minute. Miss Piau left the hall where the competition was held with a magnificent challenge cup and 2000 francs in prize money.

Women Succeed As Farmers

ACCORDING to a recent report of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, there are now 15,841 women farmers in Canada. Many are in the prairie provinces, where agricultural production is assuring Canada a foremost place as bread-giver. Of the total mentioned, 15,094 women are listed as owners and managers of farms, 255 as gardeners or florists, 204 as market gardeners, and 104 as ranchers and stock-raisers.

Gas Company Sets Precedent

THE Brooklyn Borough Gas Co., a $5,000,000 corporation, has appointed Mary E. Dillon as vice-president. In private life Miss Dillon is actually Mrs. Henry Farber, but she always signs her business letters with her maiden name.

What Women Are Thinking

Jane Littell

In ATLANTIC MONTHLY for December

One of the good things that come to a home from which both the husband and the wife go forth to business every day is a new comradeship—a new sort of partnership. A working wife has a better chance of being friends with her husband than the stay-at-home wife. And being friends with some one to whom the law binds one is not so easy as it sounds.

The wage-earning wife meets her husband on an equality basis. She is no longer a dependent. She is an equal partner. The chances for domestic happiness seem greater than in the old-fashioned marriage where a woman could be nothing but what her husband made her.

Eight-Hour Day For Crews

THAT an eight-hour day may be held to be practical for men as well as women is indicated by a recent occurrence in France.

Leon Meyer, under secretary for Merchant Marine, told the French Chamber of Deputies he expected a decree instituting an eight-hour day on board merchant ships would be put in force in January. The increased cost to the State is reckoned at 1,000,000 francs for the 33 vessels involved.

Wage Statute Held Unconstitutional

THE United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin recently had before it a case in which an injunction was sought to prevent the enforcement of the minimum wage law of that State as regards the employment of adult females (Folding Furniture Works (Inc.) v. Industrial Commission, 300 Fed. 991). A bench of three judges accepted the contention of the employing corporation that under the decision by the Supreme Court in regard to the minimum wage law of the District of Columbia (Adkins v. Children's Hospital, 261 U. S. 525, 43 Sup. Ct. 394), no alternative existed but to declare the law of Wisconsin void. Any intention to attack that part of the law which applied to the wage of minors was specifically disavowed, and the ruling applies only to the law in its application to adult females.

Some effort was made to secure an opinion that would modify, limit or restrict the decision cited, but the present court held that such action must rest with the Supreme Court which had announced the opinion. "Until so modified or reversed, it is idle for this court to engage in a discussion of the relative merits of the majority and minority opinions."

An injunctional order affecting adult females only was thereupon issued.

Women Rule Town

WOMEN rule in Sunbeam, Colorado, official returns show. Upsetting the plans of the Democrats and Republicans in the recent election, a "women's party" appeared on election day and succeeded in electing two constables and a justice of the peace.

Mrs. Nellie Templeton was elected justice of the peace, displacing her husband, who ran as a Republican. Miss Julia Clark and Mrs. Bessie Morea were elected constables. Mrs. Morea's husband, a candidate for justice of the peace, endorsed by both parties, was the only one to escape the women's landslide, and his wife will serve as constable in his court.

Columbia Urged To Accept Women

AT a recent meeting of the New York Branch of the National Woman's Party a resolution was passed urging Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, to bring about the opening of Columbia Law School to women. The resolution was adopted after Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer, the speaker, had told how women everywhere were seeking an education and in many places found the doors closed against them.

Women As Bar Examiners

IN the year 1925 this country will see its first woman examiner of applicants for admission to practice law.

In all of the forty-eight States and the District of Columbia an investigation has been conducted to ascertain whether or not women are now serving, or have ever served on boards that determine the sufficiency of the legal learning, ability and moral character of would-be lawyers. This investigation was carried on for the Lawyers' Council of the National Woman's Party by Julia Atkins, a Washington attorney and a member of the council. Miss Atkins found that Lucy Somerville of Cleveland, Miss., will be the first of her sex to serve as a full-fledged member of such a board. However, in several States women have been employed to perform such minor work as answering the correspondence, or acting as the representative of the board during written examinations.

Miss Somerville was appointed on the Mississippi Board of Bar Examiners by Governor Henry L. Whitfield, and her term will begin in February, 1925. It is understood that Governor Whitfield's election is attributed to the votes of Mississippi women and that his appointments of qualified women to various State boards are due partly to his gratitude for the role played by them in his gubernatorial campaign. The position of bar examiner carries remuneration, as the examination fee is $10 per applicant, and all fees are equally divided among the three members of the board.

In this connection it is interesting to note that according to the 1920 census the number of women lawyers in the United States increased from 558 in 1910 to 1738 in 1920. There are probably 2000 to 2500 at the present time. Less than sixty years ago the first woman was allowed to enter the legal profession, and not until 1920 had all the States of the American union lifted the ban on women lawyers.

Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of reports on women in the legal profession which will be made under the direction of the Lawyers' Council of the Woman's Party.

An idea of the opposition that women have had to overcome to gain this permission to qualify as lawyers may be gleaned from the fact that it was not unusual for a court to comment upon the good character of a female applicant, and to suggest that a good character is "not always to be looked for in women who forsake the ways of their sex" for the ways of the male sex. "The law of nature," said the court, "destines and qualifies the female sex for the bearing and nurture of the children of our race and for the custody of the homes of the world and their maintenance in love and honor. And all life-long callings of women, inconsistent with these * * * sacred duties of their sex, as is the profession of the law, are departures from the order of nature; and when voluntary, reason against it. * * * It is public policy * * * not to tempt women from the proper duties of their sex by opening to them duties peculiar to ours. * * * It would be revolting to all female sense of the innocence and sanctity of their sex, shocking to man's reverence for womanhood and faith in woman, * * * that woman should be permitted to mix professionally in all the nastiness of the world which finds its way into courts of justice * * *" (Motion to admit Miss Goodell, 39 Wis. 232.)

BURNITA SHELTON MATTHEWS
of the Legal Research Department of the Woman's Party, Member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States and of the District of Columbia

Although authority to practice law has been obtained after many years of effort, a firm foothold for women in the legal field is yet to be won. The traditional prejudices against women in the learned professions place them at a great disadvantage. It is to feminists that women lawyers everywhere are looknig for encouragement and support in surmounting the obstacles in their pathway.

If you need a lawyer, employ a woman. If your friends need a lawyer, refer them to a woman. If your locality needs a lawyer for public employment, recommend a woman! In this way you can help to bring about equal opportunity and recognition for women lawyers.

On this point the Declaration of Principles of the Woman's Party provides:

"Women shall no longer be discriminated against in the legal, the medical, the teaching, or any other profession, but the same opportunities shall be given to women as to men in training for professions and in the practice of these professions."

Hearings on Equal Rights Measure to Be Set This Week

LOBBYING Congress in favor of the resolution to submit to the States the amendment to the Constitution removing all legal discriminations against women progresses with results not at all discouraging to the advocates of the measure.

While definite dates have not been set for the hearings before the judiciary committee, it is expected that the hearing before the sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee will take place in January, and the hearing before the House Judiciary Committee will be set for some time early in February.

Senator Ernst of Kentucky is chairman of the sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which now has the measure. Representative Graham of Philadelphia, Pa., is chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

Members of the Woman's Party who can make their plans to attend these hearings, the precise date of which will be announced, it is hoped, in the next issue of EQUAL RIGHTS, are urged to make their plans to be present.

Mrs. Genevieve Allen, who has been interviewing Congressmen on the measure, returned to California on December 19 to organize the Woman's Party in her State, ready for active work on the Lucretia Mott Amendment.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation"

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 21.
House Joint Resolution Number 75.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1923, by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURTIS.
Introduced in the House of Representatives, December 18, 1923, by REPRESENTATIVE D. R. ANTHONY.

New Year's Bells

EVER since the Equal Rights Convention of 1848 the New Year bells have been singing a new song to women. First there was the convention itself, which was cataclysmal to antiquated ideas. Then women's colleges opened, "blue stockings" appeared, Amelia Bloomer's dress gained in favor, some daring souls cut off their hair, by a strong push the doors to the professions were opened a trifle and a few courageous beings slipped through. Even this was not the end, for in 1869 Wyoming entered the Union as a suffrage State, to be followed in 1893 by Colorado and in 1896 by Idaho and Utah. In 1910 the suffrage landslide began and was hastened by the organization of the forerunner of the National Woman's Party.

Sitting cozily by the fireside on New Year's eve and reviewing the feminist victories of the past seventy-five years, one might suppose that all this amazing progress had come about automatically as a result of evolution. Would that this were true, for then we might look forward to the achievement of Equal Rights without further rigors. Truth is that tremendous forward steps in civilization are not accomplished except at great cost of voluntary sacrifice.

In 1848 young hands and strong, that now lie quiet in the grave, gripped the harsh bell ropes, wakened the sleeping bells, sounded the call of freedom to the nation's women. Nor has that call been answered but in part. When on the night the old year dies and the New Year enters in, again the bells will ring, singing the self-same song.

It is the challenge to us moderns from the pioneers. To them we owe the opportunities that we enjoy, our education, our right of franchise, the chance to follow fortune where she leads. It is an unpaid debt that we can only meet by standing in our turn beneath the bells.

"Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring out the false, ring in the true."

Come on, comrades. Keep the bells ringing until Equal Rights is a reality and not a dream.

A New Year's Gift From Labor

IT is to be remembered that the National Woman's Party has as its purpose "That woman shall no longer be in any form of subjection to man in law or *in custom.*" So much stress is of necessity laid upon the removal of the legal disabilities of women that there is danger of forgetting that there are other paths leading upward to equality.

One of the notable gains of the year through means other than legislation is that achieved in 1924 by the barbers. At its annual convention, held in Indianapolis, September 9 to 17, 1924, the Journeymen Barbers' International Union of America voted by a large majority to permit women to become members of the union on and after January 1, 1925. Their admission had been under discussion for some years past, but hitherto the union had taken the ground that woman workers were out of place in a barber shop and refused to recognize them. The change in hairdressing fashions which has caused women to resort to the barber shops as customers in large numbers has done away with this objection and led to the change in attitude on the part of the union. The *Federaton News,* published by the Chicago Federation of Labor, in a discussion of this action, summarizes the benefits which women will receive from it:

> Among the advantages the women who will become eligible on January 1, 1925, to join the Journeymen Barbers' Union will gain, the following benefits merit attention:
>
> Enforcement of the union wage scale and fair working conditions.
>
> Sick benefits of $10 a week from the International Union.
>
> Sick benefits of $5 a week from the local union—a benefit that probably will be increased to $10 a week.
>
> Death benefit of $100, if deceased has been a member but one year.
>
> Gradual increase of death benefit according to years of membership.
>
> Death benefit of $500 at the end of 15 years of membership.
>
> The sick benefit is payable for 16 weeks of any one year, but limits the liability of the organization to the class of disabilities to which men and women are subject.

According to the same paper, there are now about 35,000 women working as barbers in the United States who are eligible to membership in the union under the new rule. As union members, they will receive the same wage scale as the men.

Woman's Party, 1921-24—A Record of Tremendous Achievement

By Ruby A. Black

IN FEBRUARY, 1921, the National Woman's Party was reorganized. At that time it had only a general program; it had no funds, no headquarters, and no complete authoritative information on the position of women and the legal discriminations against them.

Today, not quite four years afterwards, definite results that have been accomplished include:

A resolution providing for an equal rights amendment to the Federal Constitution introduced in both houses of Congress.

Permanent headquarters valued at approximately $300,000, established and paid for.

Four national pageants portraying the history of the equal rights movement held, costing $8000 to $10,000 each.

A Legal Research Department continuously studying the status of women and drafting equal rights measures.

Four hundred and seventy-six bills drafted for introduction in State legislatures to abolish discriminations against women.

Equal rights legislation affecting more than 25,000,000 women passed in sixteen legislatures.

An international parliament of women undertaken.

EQUAL RIGHTS magazine established.

Councils organized in the different professions and occupations to promote the economic advancement of women.

A Women for Congress campaign carried on.

Many State and local groups organized for work toward equal rights.

A center for information on equal rights established and interest in the subject aroused throughout the country.

WHEN the convention of the party was held February 15-17, 1921, following the final ratification of the Suffrage Amendment, a preliminary report on the legal status of women was made. It was then decided to reorganize the Woman's Party for the purpose of removing all forms of the subjection of women, beginning with legal discriminations. As a part of this convention the statue of the pioneer suffragists was unveiled in the crypt of the Capitol and given to the people of the United States as a memorial to the brave work of Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in pioneering for equality.

Elsie Hill was chosen chairman of the National Council and of the Executive Committee, and Anita Pollitzer, secretary, at the first council meeting. As the old headquarters on Lafayette Square had to be vacated within the week, the furnishings were sold at auction, and the files of the old organization and the furniture kept for the new oganization were moved—much of it by hand on the day of President Harding's inaugural—to two little rooms in the Bond Building.

IN these small headquarters the work went on through March, April and May. From there the first deputation went to President Harding, asking for equal rights. It was then that he declared "Equal Rights for men and women is but the logical fulfillment of the Suffrage Amendment."

By June the council had authorized the purchase of permanent headquarters on Capitol Hill, across from the National Capitol, and had signed the contract of sale. The office was immediately opened in the house at 25 First street N. E. Mary Winsor was appointed chairman of the Headquarters Committee and set about completing the purchase of the building.

About this time the Wisconsin Branch of the National Woman's Party was reorganized under the leadership of Mabel Raef Putnam, and the Wisconsin Legislature in July passed the Equal Rights bill, removing all legal discriminations against women, but retaining special legislation for women in industry.

IN September the Legal Research Department was established. Burnita Shelton Matthews, a Washington attorney, volunteered her services, and from that time on has continued to survey the legal status of women throughout the United States and to draft measures for removing existing legal discriminations against women. The department now consists of Mrs. Matthews and Emma Wold, and during some periods has required as many as thirteen women lawyers in the Supreme Court Law Library working on the enormous task of digesting the laws affecting women.

The Maine and Delaware branches of the party initiated successful measures in their legislatures during the first year removing discriminations against women. Louisiana was then organized, as its legislature was then in session. The laws of Louisiana were digested by Mrs. Matthews, and the first legislature after the work was undertaken passed bills removing eleven discriminations against women. Mrs. John D. Wilkinson became head of the Louisiana branch.

Alabama's legislature being in session, it was the next State organized, and forty-eight hours after the formation of the branch a deputation of women called on the Governor asking his support for equal rights legislation. Organization work was done in Mississippi, Tennessee, Illinois, Ohio and Minnesota. Digests of the State laws affecting women in Alabama and Mississippi were completed for use in these campaigns, enabling representatives of the Woman's Party to cope successfully with members of the legal profession who proved to be rather uninformed on the legal position of women.

IN the meanwhile, Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont had returned from Europe and had studied the scope and purpose of the Woman's Party movement. She then bought and gave to the Woman's Party for permanent headquarters the historic group of buildings at 21-25 First street N. E., which had been the Capitol during the years 1815-19. Mrs. Belmont became president of the organization and Miss Paul became first vice-president.

In May, 1922, the permanent headquarters were dedicated. More than ten thousand people stood in the Capitol grounds, the Woman's Party gardens and the adjacent streets, which had been closed for the occasion by order of the late President Harding, and listened to the dedication services which were transmitted to the vast audience by powerful amplifiers. Representatives of every occupation and profession pledged their support to the Equal Rights movement, and placed their pledges in the corner-stone. Government officials, feminist leaders and representatives of all foreign legations in Washington were present. During the ceremonies a silk banner of purple, white and gold, the colors of the Woman's Party, adopted from the old organization, were unfurled, the gift of Mrs. John Jay White.

As soon as women throughout the country were informed that the headquarters needed furnishing, gifts of both furniture and money, large and small, were sent to the house. Many pieces of valuable old furniture have also been sent to the headquarters. The first room to be completed

was the Lincoln Room, given by Mrs. Valentine Winters of Ohio. A bed in which Abraham Lincoln slept and a chair that once belonged to Mrs. McKinley are among the historic furnishings of this room.

AT this time, too, the most complete feminist library in existence was given to the Woman's Party by Mrs. Belmont. It will be installed in headquarters and made available for use as soon as it can be placed suitably.

The gift of the permanent home relieved the strain on the treasury of the party and the organization was then able to devote its time more concentratedly to the fundamental problem of obtaining equal rights.

In November, 1922, a conference of all founders, life members, charter members and National and State officers was held. Here the Declaration of Principles, written by Alice Paul, was adopted. It was decided at this time that an amendment to the Federal Constitution would be necessary to guarantee equal rights for all time. The research into the State laws had made it clear to the students of the problem that the task of removing existing discriminations against women by piecemeal legislation in all the States would prove to be endless and uncertain in its results.

BY the end of 1922 the laws of all the States had been surveyed on the following points: Guardianship of children; capacity of the wife to contract and carry on business; the right of the wife to her earnings and service; family support; the interest of husband and wife in each other's property and the inheritance of each other's property; alimony and divorce; sex offenses; the right of women to hold public office; jury service; labor laws; all State constitutional provisions relating to women, restrictions as to how bills shall be drawn, and the dates of legislative sessions. Many States had been completely surveyed for all laws affecting women.

The following year, 1923, more than forty State legislatures were in session. Throughout the United States members of the Woman's Party and sympathizers who later became members began to campaign for the passage of equal rights legislation. Their success may be reviewed in detail in the issue of EQUAL RIGHTS for December 20.

In February, 1923, EQUAL RIGHTS, the official organ of the party, was established and a group of associate editors, consisting of women authors and journalists, was formed.

AS 1923 was the seventy-fifth anniversary of the beginning of the equal rights movement, the Woman's Party staged a pageant at the birthplace of the movement, Seneca Falls, N. Y., where the first Equal Rights Convention was held in July, 1848. More than ten thousand people gathered on the banks of the river there and watched the portrayal of this history of the Equal Rights movement. There the Lucretia Mott Amendment, written by Alice Paul, was adopted after scores of drafts had been submitted to feminists, students of the law, lawyers and judges. As the climax of the magnificent pageant, a great gold banner, sixty feet square, bearing purple letters outlined in white, was unfurled and blazoned there were the words, "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction." A similar pageant was given in Colorado in the fall in the Garden of the Gods.

IN November, 1923, the conference of founders, charter members, life members and National and State officers adopted a resolution calling for an international parliament of women to meet at Woman's Party Headquarters in Washington. A committee was appointed to call the parliament two years from that time.

In December, 1923, Senator Charles Curtis, then Republican whip and now Republican floor leader, introduced the resolution for the Equal Rights Amendment in the Senate, and Daniel R. Anthony, nephew of Susan B. Anthony, introduced it in the House of Representatives. Great delegations of women wearing the purple, white and gold of the Woman's Party sat in the galleries of the House and the Senate as the bills were dropped into the baskets.

In the winter of 1922-23 plans had been made for the organization of Inez Milholland Memorial Chapters of the Woman's Party in colleges and universities to promote the study of equal rights among students. The Inez Milholland Memorial Committee held a memorial pageant in August, 1924, in honor of Inez Milholland, who had died in the work, at her former home at Meadowmount, N. Y., in the Adirondacks. As at the dedication and at the Seneca Falls Pageant, many thousands of people witnessed the memorial pageant.

IN 1924 the Woman's Party attended all political conventions, demanding that planks in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment be incorporated into their platforms. During the fall the Women for Congress campaign was made. Deputations to Senator Cummins, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and to Representative Graham, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, were held in December, and continuous lobbying for the measure is being done in Congress under the direction of Maud Younger, legislative chairman.

During the entire period the Government Workers' Council has done much to remove discriminations against women in Government service under the leadership of Laura Berrien of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. This work has been extended to State employes, too, and has achieved several notable victories.

DIGESTS of the laws affecting women have been completed for the following States: Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming. New decisions and new laws necessitate frequent changes in the digests. The remaining States are complete on the twelve points listed above.

Leaflets have been printed showing the discriminations against women in the following States: Virginia, Rhode Island, New York, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Massachusetts, Maryland, Louisiana, Florida, Delaware, Colorado and Alabama.

THE number of bills drafted by the Legal Research Department for introduction in the State legislatures are: Alabama, 5; Colorado, 20; Connecticut, 26; Delaware, 14; Georgia, 38; Illinois, 25; Iowa, 15; Maine, 12; Maryland, 34; Michigan, 5; Minnesota, 10; Missouri, 7; Nebraska, 13; Nevada, 17; New Hampshire, 10; New Jersey, 15; New Mexico, 16; Ohio, 12; Rhode Island, 13; South Carolina, 27; South Dakota, 6; Tennessee, 21; Texas, 26; Virginia, 30; West Virginia, 4; New York, 25.

Not the least important function of the Legal Research Department has been its service as a bureau of information on the status of women. Numerous inquiries have come from lawyers, club women, college and university students and others interested in some phase of the status of women.

No elaboration is needed in this account. The mere facts suggest the enormour achievements of the National Woman's Party in its four years of existence under the new purpose. With so much accomplished, nothing is too much to expect of the next four years.

Two Weeks Before*

By Angela Oakes

MISS SCHIRMER turned quickly on her swivel chair and took off her shell-rimmed spectacles. "What's that?" she said, in a tone that indicated that she could not have heard correctly.

The girl whom her superior fronted so abruptly flushed to the roots of her fair hair.

"Of course, if you mind, I won't go," she replied, chin up, with a certain native dignity, "but I can visit that Cherkowsky family this evening just as well as now, or even this afternoon late after the meeting. That will take at least two hours; it's way down in Garrett street, so with the letters I have to fill and fold and sign I won't take any time off from the office. However, if you don't approve"— Her shoulders finished the sentence.

Unfolding a large and spotless handkerchief, Miss Schirmer polished her eyeglasses. She was a woman past fifty, of wide and illuminating experience with people, and she knew the danger of hasty and arbitrary decisions. For 23 years she had been District Agent in the Charity Organization Society, a post that she had filled with outstanding success because she kept a bridle on her tongue.

"As you know, Miss Malone," she finally began, "it is not according to precedent to go out on private matters during office hours."

"But this is not a private matter," returned Millicent Malone with surprise. "It is a meeting, just the same kind of meeting you constantly send us assistants to, to broaden our outlook. Last week and the week before, do you remember, on Americanization and the Eight Hour Law?" "

Miss Schirmer smiled, shaking her head. "Those were meetings that were germaine to our work. They affected the poor. It was possible that there you might learn something instructive. It was desirable to have the office represented. Now, this meeting is entirely different. These National Woman's Party women want to tear down welfare legislation and destroy the protection that women need. Mrs. Wardlaw is opposed to their whole program, and as chairman of our board her opinion must be respected. She gives more generously to this branch of the work than any other person here, man or woman. She even pays your salary."

Millicent Malone flinched as if she had been struck across the face. She started to speak, then was silent.

"These things," went on Miss Schirmer composedly, "have to be thought of."

"Did you ever go to a National Woman's Party meeting?" asked the girl.

"Never," from Miss Schirmer firmly, "nor do I intend to. We cannot afford to give such propaganda the countenance of our presence. Why, I'm told they don't even believe in mothers' pensions!"

"Excuse me," this from a dull-looking woman with a crutch at her side, a "case" that had been sitting forgotten in the rear of the office. "It is not my affair, but I know something about that organization. One of the best friends I ever had in the world was an officer. She's dead or I wouldn't be here. It's them that got equal pay for equal work for teachers, and we wouldn't have the no-night-work law now if they'd had their way. It was that that put my Dora out of her work. She was in the printing business. So cut up she was she got sick, and now she's in a sanatorium with the tuberculosis, and I, with this bad leg, can't work and the others are too little. Lady," she said, looking squarely at Miss Schirmer, "perhaps you'll think it impertinence and not help me, much as we need it, but the memory of my friend won't let me keep quiet. 'God give us grace,' she'd always say, 'God give us grace to see both sides of every question.' So she always spoke when my husband and I differed, which we did to the day of his death. Heaven rest his soul. Let the young lady go, Missis; she'll not hear anything to harm her."

"You have an unexpected advocate, Miss Malone," said Miss Schirmer. "Perhaps she is right. Go, child. All that I know is from the newspapers and the opposition." She consulted a card on her desk, bearing the name of the "case" that had been placed there by an assistant. "Now, Mrs. Lang," she said, "we can talk things over. Don't move; I'll come over and sit down by you; it's easier." As she walked down the narrow room she surveyed her visitor with unwonted interest. "God give us grace to see both sides of every question." It wasn't just a claptrap phrase. The woman knew what it meant. Astonishing! Miss Schirmer was a fair-minded being.

AFTER the meeting, as she made her arduous way to Garrett street, Millicent Malone kept recalling the argument. It had been amazingly clear. If Miss Schirmer had been there she was sure she would have been convinced, she was such an honest-minded woman. But she wouldn't go; that was the difficulty. The wretched streets, lighted only by feeble gas lamps, were dark and deserted in the late winter afternoon. It was like night, though it was but a few minutes past six o'clock. An occasional cat, a man obviously intoxicated, only a few people were to be seen. She drew her scarf more closely about her throat. It was cold, a still, searching cold, and a heavy mist was falling. At last she found the number in Garrett street and knocked at the door. A man in a khaki sweater with both elbows out opened to her.

"Shut up back there!" he shouted as the voice of a child in pain or anger greeted her. "There's a young lady"— A door slammed. "Now," he said, "What can I do for you, Miss?" He smiled broadly, showing gums red and swollen.

"I'm looking for the Cherkowsky's," Miss Malone announced. "Are you by any chance Mr. Cherkowsky?"

The man emitted a loud guffaw. "Not me," he said, "Not me. And you won't find him, neither. He's gone, and it ain't the first time. She's in the family way, you know. Left the same way before the last one. He's a no good son of a ——— beg pardon, Miss. I mean hell would be too good for him. But she's a nice little woman. Five kids, oldest about like my George there that was raisng such rim when you came—fighting with his sister. Go right back through that walk by the house. See? There's stairs up in the yard. And watch your step; there's a gutter, water in it if it ain't frozen."

The girl stumbled through the tunnel-like walk between the house and its neighbor. It was dimly dark in the passage, and the rotten bricks under foot were broken and uneven. She found the stairs in the yard and ascended. A small child with wild black hair and enormous eyes opened the door a few inches and peered out at her. The only light was a candle end set in a bottle on the improvised sink, which was apparently the source of the water in the gutter.

"Is this Mrs. Cherkowsky's?" asked Miss Malone, "and may I see her?"

"Wait a minute." The door closed in her face and ma was hailed loudly.

In a moment the door opened again. "You must excuse her, Miss," said a weary looking woman, whose hair was done up in a wisp at the back, and who wore a large, enveloping wrapper. "She ain't got no manners, but you'll like her. Come here, Sonya," putting her arm about the child's meager shoulders, "tell the lady you're glad to see her."

"I'm glad if she's brought something to eat, ma, I'm hungry." The thin arms clasped the distorted figure of the woman. "Ast the lady to give us something to eat. There's no milk, and Alec won't go to sleep without his bottle."

From the other room—there were but two of them—a baby could be heard wailing. "Listen, Mrs. Cherkowsky," said the assistant district agent in her most businesslike manner, while a lump came up

in her throat so that she could hardly speak, "I want you to tell me all about your trouble. I'm here to help you, you know, from the Charity Organization Society, but first you must answer a few questions."

"Well, Miss, it was like this," the woman began, "we were getting along all right, but then down at the foundry they was short of work, and my husband was laid off, and then five days ago he didn't come home—ain't been home since. I don't know what we can do. No food in the house, not even milk for the baby, and only that little bit of coal," indicating a half-filled scuttle. "Miss Gans down stairs would help us if she could, but they've got nothing. And me with five children and another coming—only two weeks off far's I know. Alec's a good man; he's a good husband, only he can't stand to see us without. Once before he went off, but he came back when he got a little together. He just can't stand to think of me being sick and nothing in the house. He gets sort of crazy. Oh, Miss, if you can't help us there's nothing at all for it—and don't take the children. I'd work if I could, but I can't, not in my condition and not with them so young, neither."

A work-worn hand was seeking Millicent's; the woman was sobbing, trying to control her face, biting her lip, trying not to break down.

Millicent Malone realized that it was a moment when she must take matters into her own hands. Without reporting to the office she proceeded to the corner store and presently returned with a boy heavily laden with a monstrous basket and a bag slung over his back.

Within an hour little Alec had his bottle and was serenely asleep, unaware of the perilousness of existence. In the kitchen, where the coal box was full, Mrs. Cherkowsky and the children sat about a garnished table. A fried steak and onions, steaming potatoes, coffee, bread, even butter.

"Ain't that a nice lady?" said Sonya, between bites at a big sausage. "I guess she is a angel."

Meanwhile the nice lady trudged home through the snow that the mist and cold had foreshadowed.

"Absolutely right they were," she was saying to herself. "What good can restrictive legislation do in such a case? Mrs. Cherkowsky couldn't work anyhow two weeks before or four weeks after confinement. Where would the children be, what could they do? The woman doesn't need a law to tell her she can't work, what she needs is an income."

As she fitted the key into the lock of her snug little two-room apartment, she smiled. "I wonder if God will give Miss Schirmer grace to see it, with Mrs. Wardlaw opposed and our best giver? Anyhow, I'll tell her the Woman's Party isn't opposed to mothers' pensions. Funny what legends people get up to support an untenable position."

As she washed up in the tiny bathroom preparatory to supper, she smiled again at herself in the glass. "A darling child, that Sonya. She called me an angel when I brought in the boy with the basket. But what she needs isn't charity all her life. It's a square deal for women. Well, Wardlaw or not, I'll sign that membership card tonight and tell Miss Schirmer in the morning."

*Massachusetts has a law providing that "No woman shall knowingly be employed in laboring in a mercantile, manufacturing or mechanical establishment within two weeks before or four weeks after child-birth." (General Laws, Section 55, Chapter 149.)

From The Press

Progress Of Women
New York Telegram and Evening Mail, December 16th.

THAT exposition to be held in Chicago next spring at which progress and achievement of American women will be exemplified by appropriate exhibits should not lack for picturesque material. It is to be hoped, however, that it will be handled in the true historic manner, so that there may be opportunity to measure both progress and achievement dispassionately and without undue sentiment.

Now that we have two women Governors, women members of Congress, women in various administrative offices, there should be a section devoted to the part women are playing in public life. And, lest we forget and become too proud, an important place should be reserved in it for one almost forgotten group of American women who once held relatively greater power than their sisters hold today. These were the women of the Iroquois nation of Indians, who formed a virtual matriarchate, with the exclusive right of nominating the tribal rulers, and whose powers were felt from the Atlantic to the Mississippi and from the Great Lakes to the Carolinas.

No doubt there will be a pageant of noted women. Pocahantas will be found there and Anne Hutchinson and Mary Ball and Martha Washington, and so ought many others, if it is to be completely representative—Betsy Ross, Molly Pitcher, Dolly Madison, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Amelia Bloomer, Carrie Nation, Frances E. Willard, Dr. Mary Walker, Inex Milholland, Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, and a host of moderns whose ranks should be marshaled beyond doubt by the eminent Jane Addams.

American women have a right to be proud of the mighty advance they have made in the face of opposition and prejudice from the days when the laws of the most civilized land classed them among "lunatics, imbeciles and infants." An exposition which will do justice to the theme will be well worth seeing.

Women In Public Office
Chicago News.

WOMEN are making steady and fairly rapid progress in American politics. Since the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution giving the sex full franchise rights there have been women members of Congress, women legislators and even women judges of State courts.

The service women have performed in legislative positions has been good. Of what woman can do in executive offices the world soon will have an opportunity to judge by the results in Texas and Wyoming. And on those results may largely depend woman's further advance in office-holding.

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